

NOTICE RE: CERTIFICATES OF CORRECTION

DATE : 8-12-02

Paper No.: 21

TO : Supervisor, Art Unit 2871

SUBJECT : Certificate of Correction Request in Patent No.: 6,373,537

A response to the following question is requested with respect to the accompanying request for a certificate of correction.

With respect to the change(s) requested, correcting Office and/or Applicant's errors, should the patent read as shown in the certificate of correction? No new matter should be introduced, nor should the scope or meaning of the claims be changed.

*Please review items marked in margin with question mark on sheets 1 and 3 of 1050 form.
All other requests can be granted.*

Janet Higgins

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☒ YES

☒ NO

☐ Comments below

of T.T.

☐ Comments:

William L. Schaefer

Supervisor

2871

Art Unit

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(12) **United States Patent**
Yun et al.

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(45) **Date of Patent:** *Apr. 16, 2002

(54) **COMPUTER HAVING LIQUID CRYSTAL DISPLAY BETWEEN FRAMES ATTACHED AT THE EDGES**

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(*) Notice: Subject to any disclaimer, the term of this patent is extended or adjusted under 35 U.S.C. 154(b) by 0 days.

This patent is subject to a terminal disclaimer.

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(22) Filed: **Jun. 7, 1999**

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(51) Int. Cl.⁷ **G02F 1/1333; H05K 5/001**

(52) U.S. Cl. **349/58; 361/681**

(58) Field of Search **349/1, 58, 61; 361/681**

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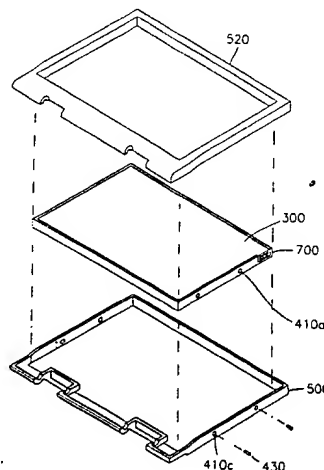
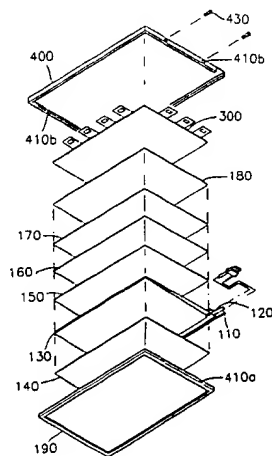
Primary Examiner—Toan Ton

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(57) **ABSTRACT**

A liquid crystal display device includes a liquid crystal panel having a display area, a back light unit including a light source joined with the liquid crystal panel, a first frame coupled to a surface of the back light unit and to the sides of the liquid crystal panel, a second frame coupled to the edges of the liquid crystal panel and to the sides of the first support frame, an outer casing, and a fastening part joining together the first support frame, the second support frame, and the outer casing through the sides of the first support frame, the second support frame, and the outer casing.

16 Claims, 9 Drawing Sheets



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FIG. 1
PRIOR ART

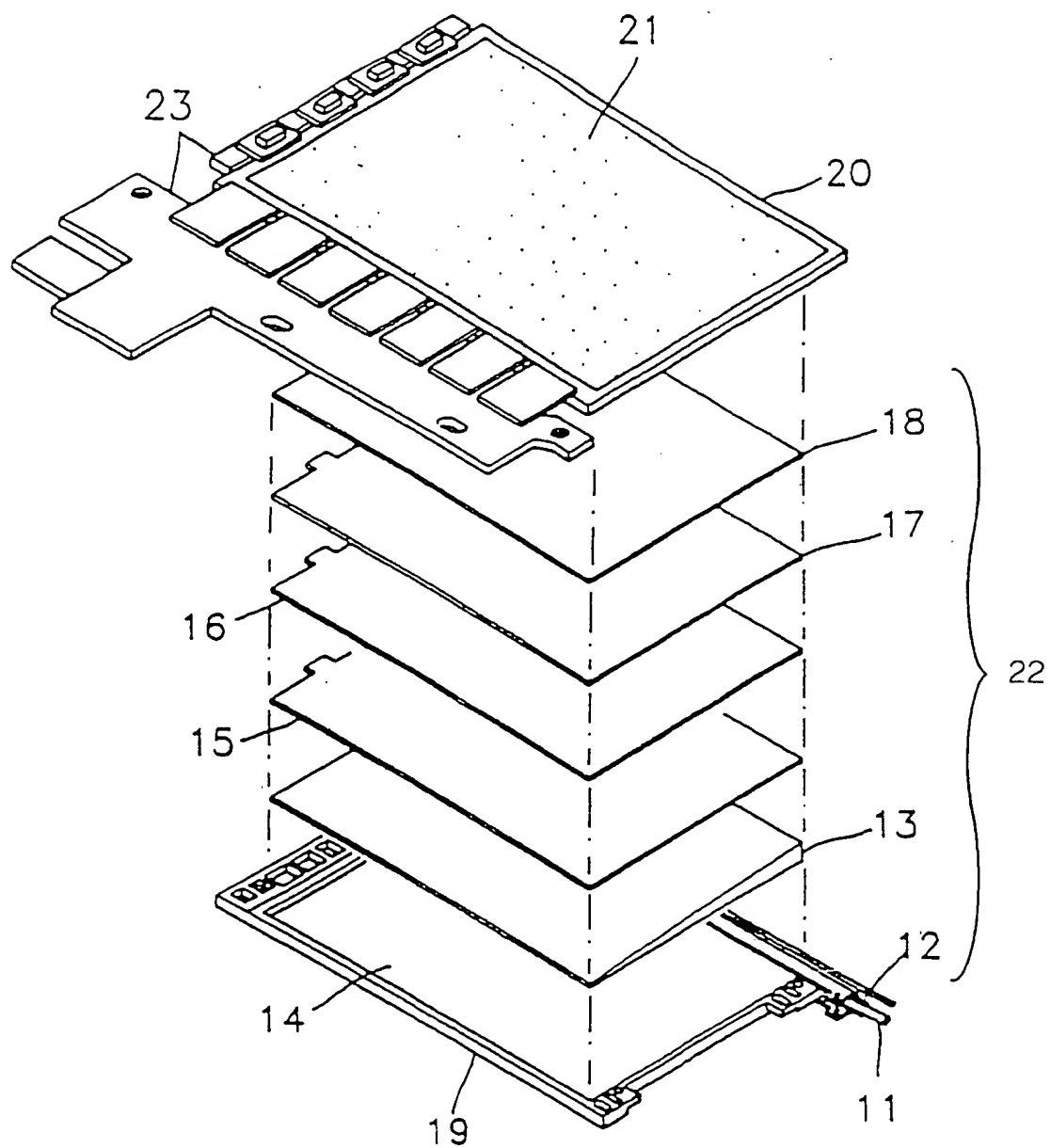


FIG. 2
PRIOR ART

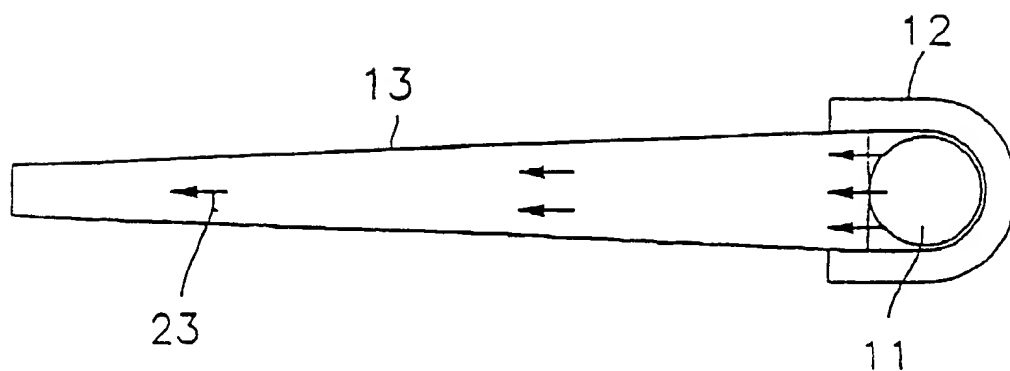


FIG. 3a
PRIOR ART

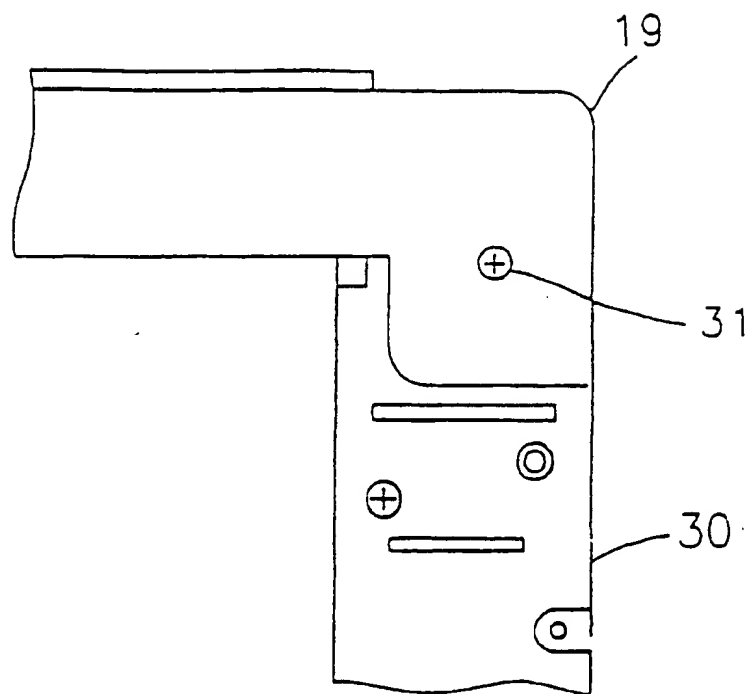


FIG. 3b
PRIOR ART

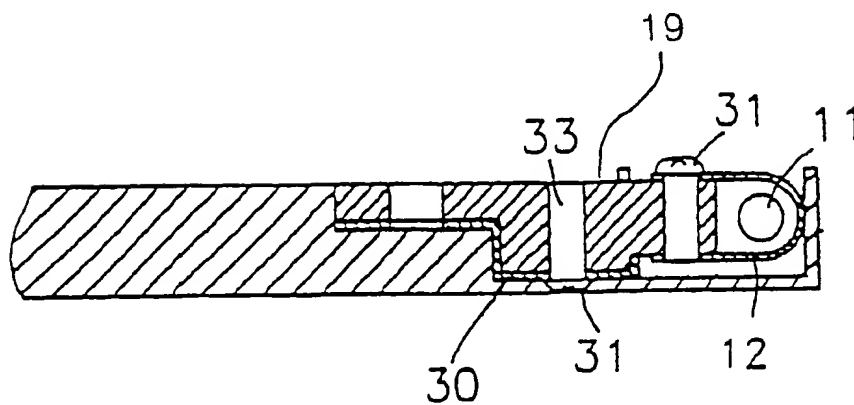


FIG. 4
PRIOR ART

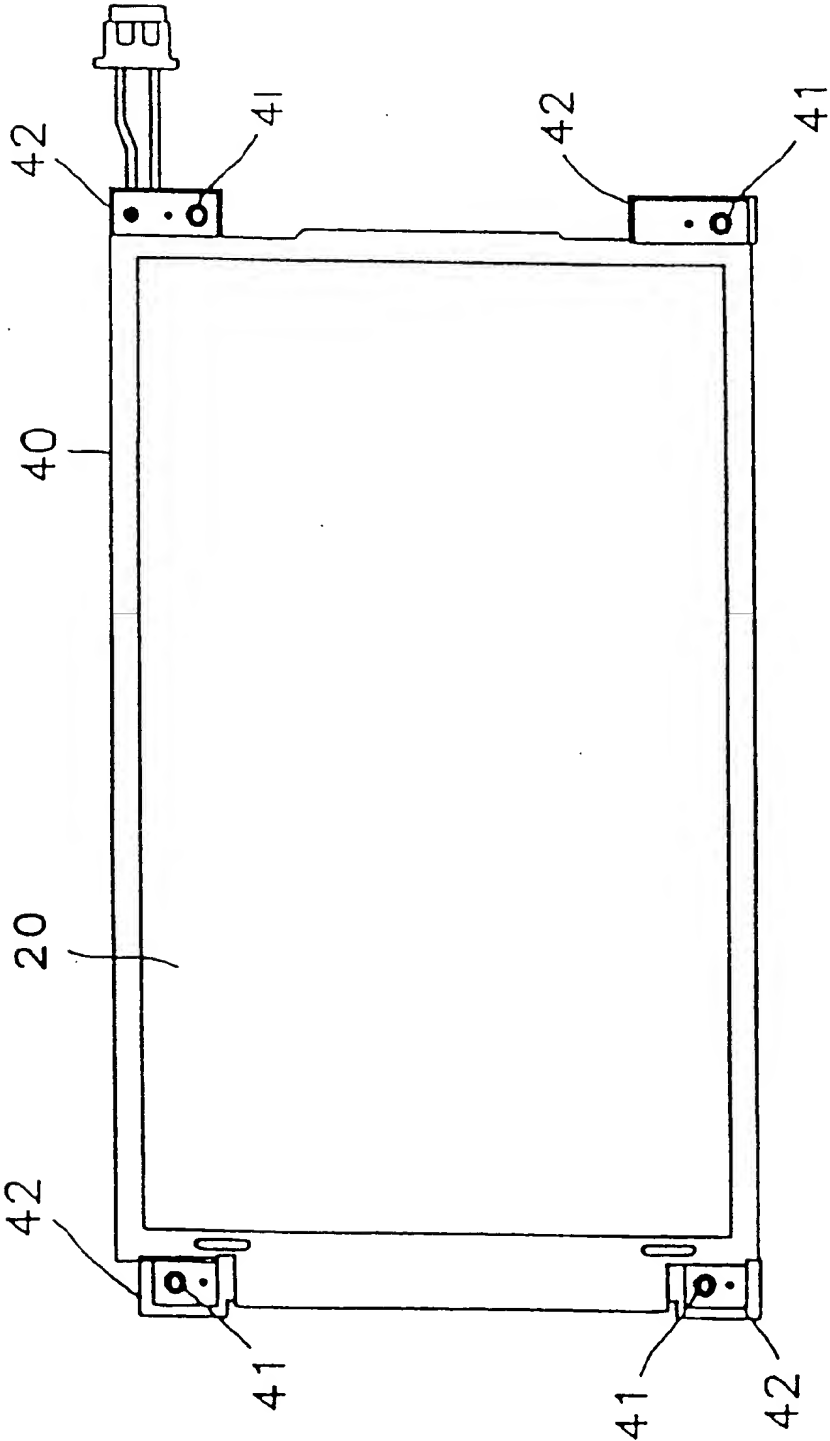


FIG. 5
PRIOR ART

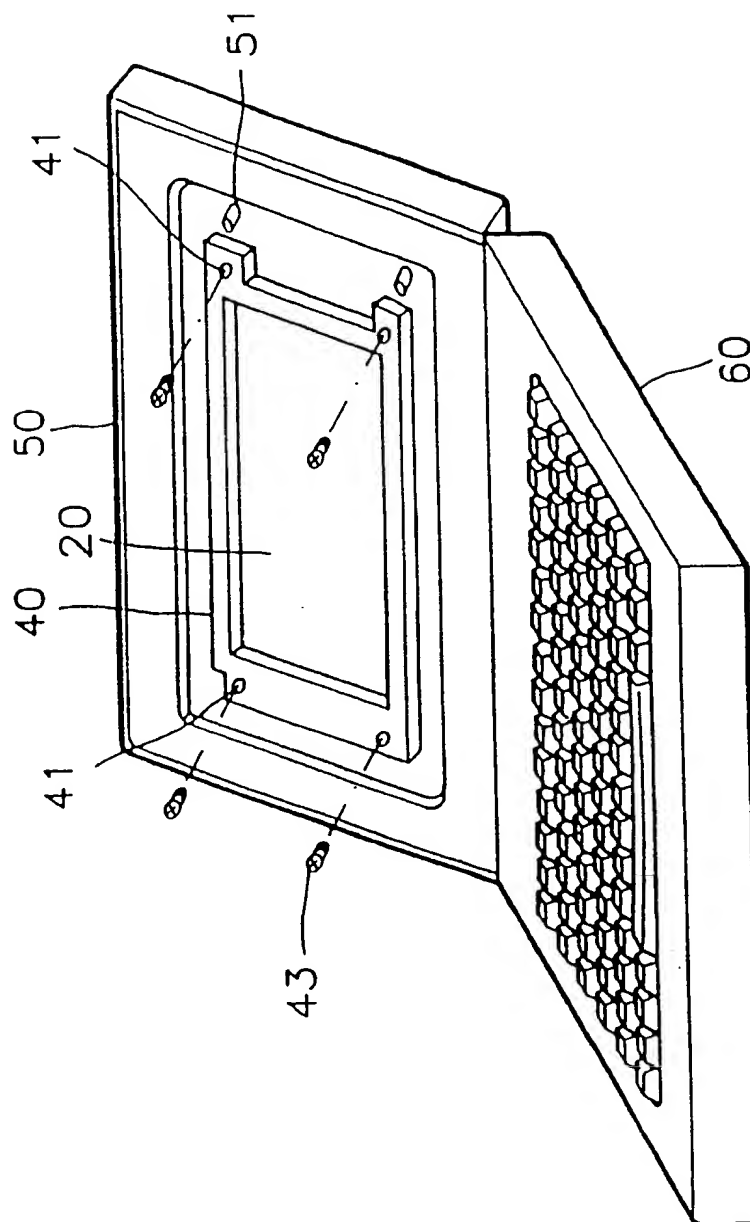


FIG. 6

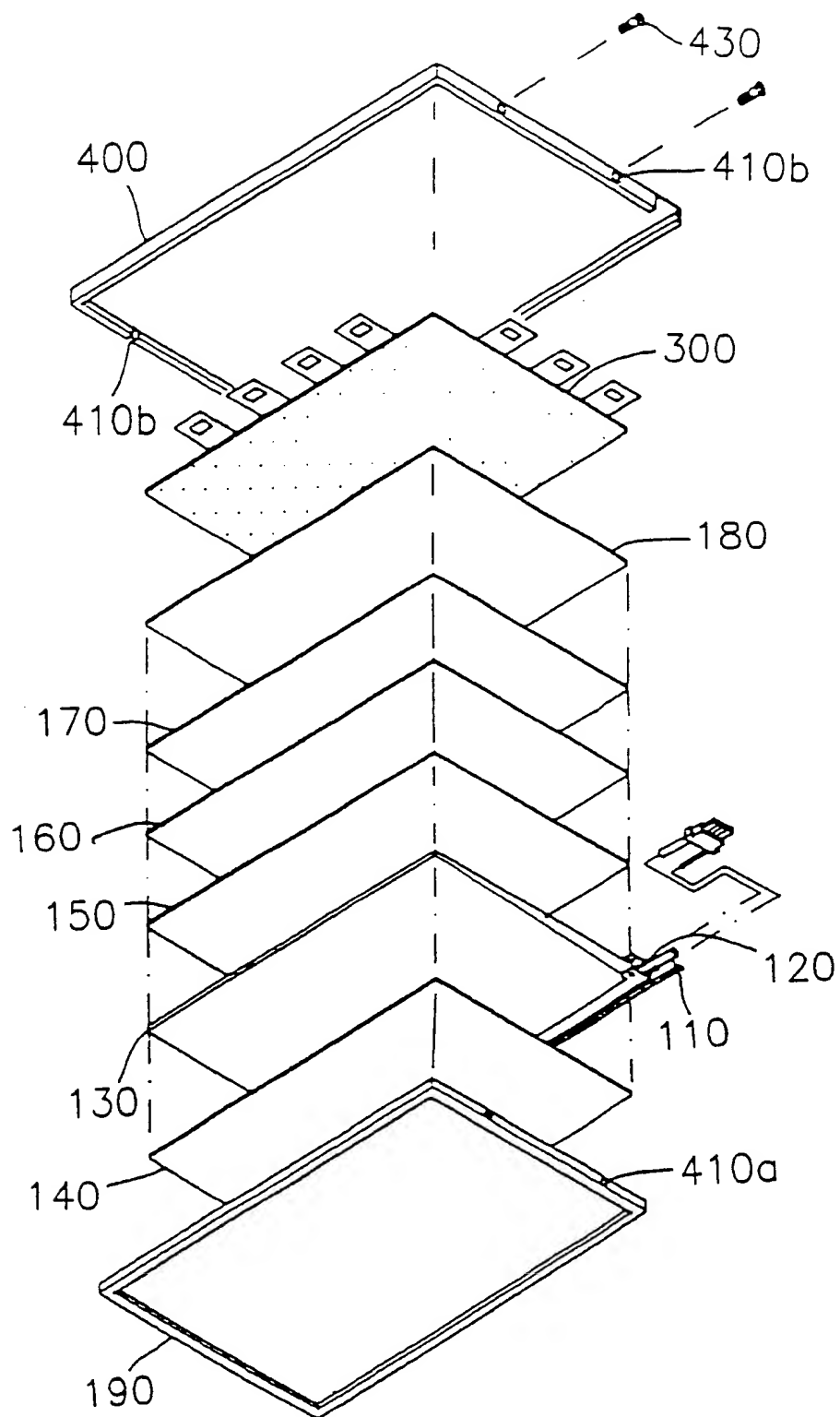


FIG. 7

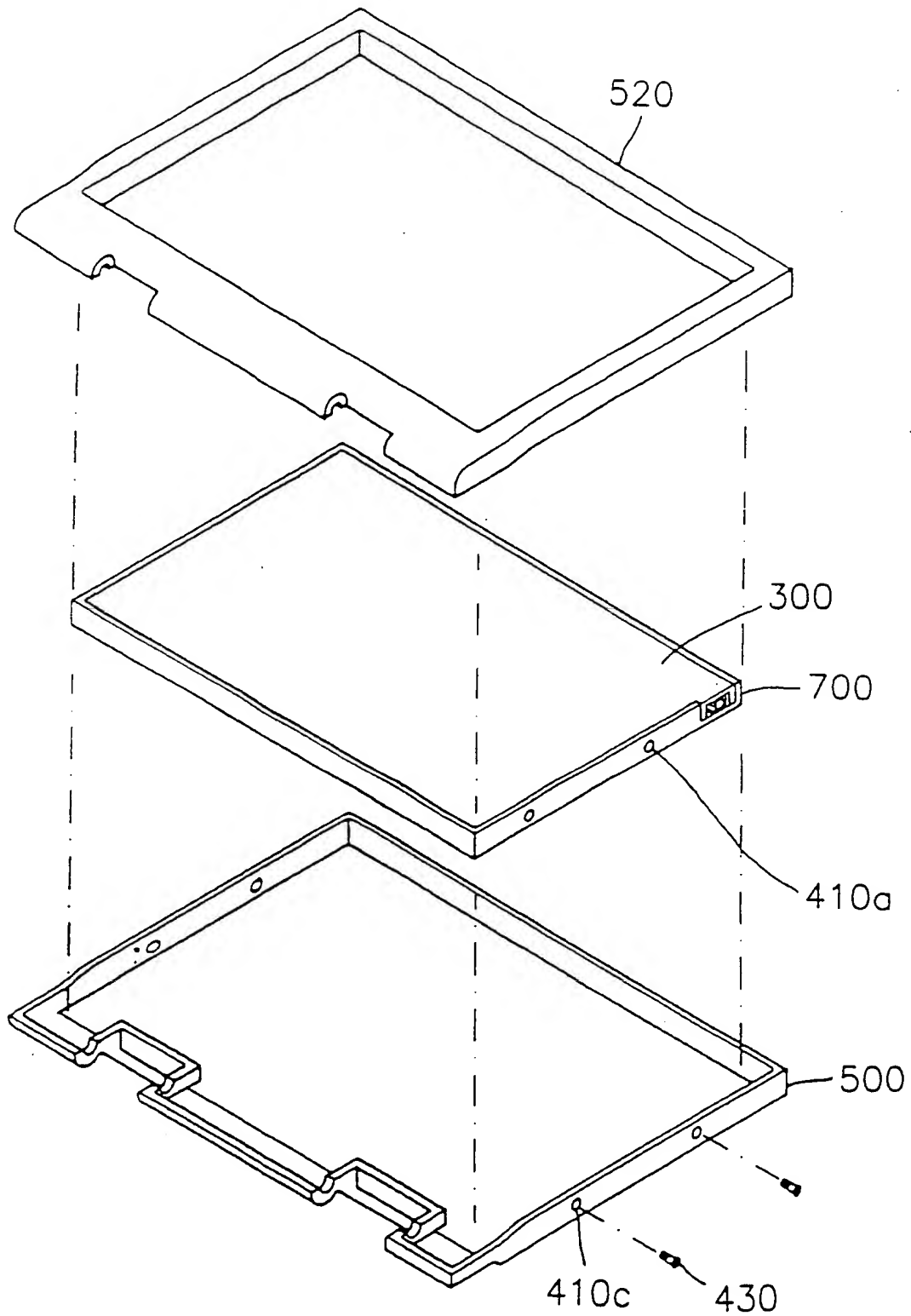


FIG. 8

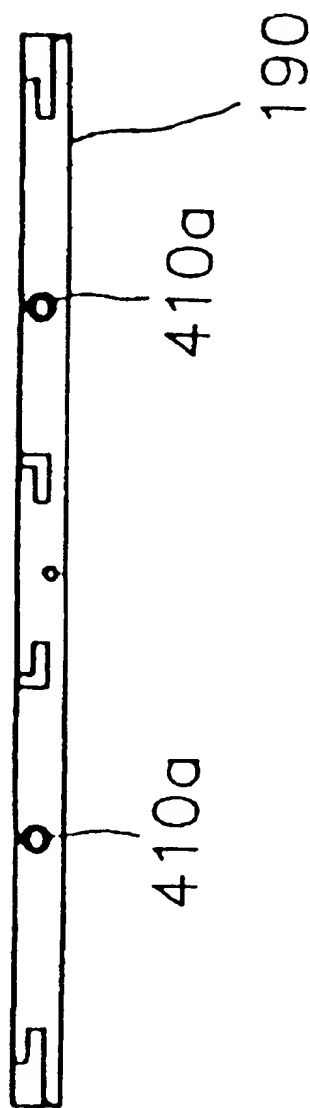
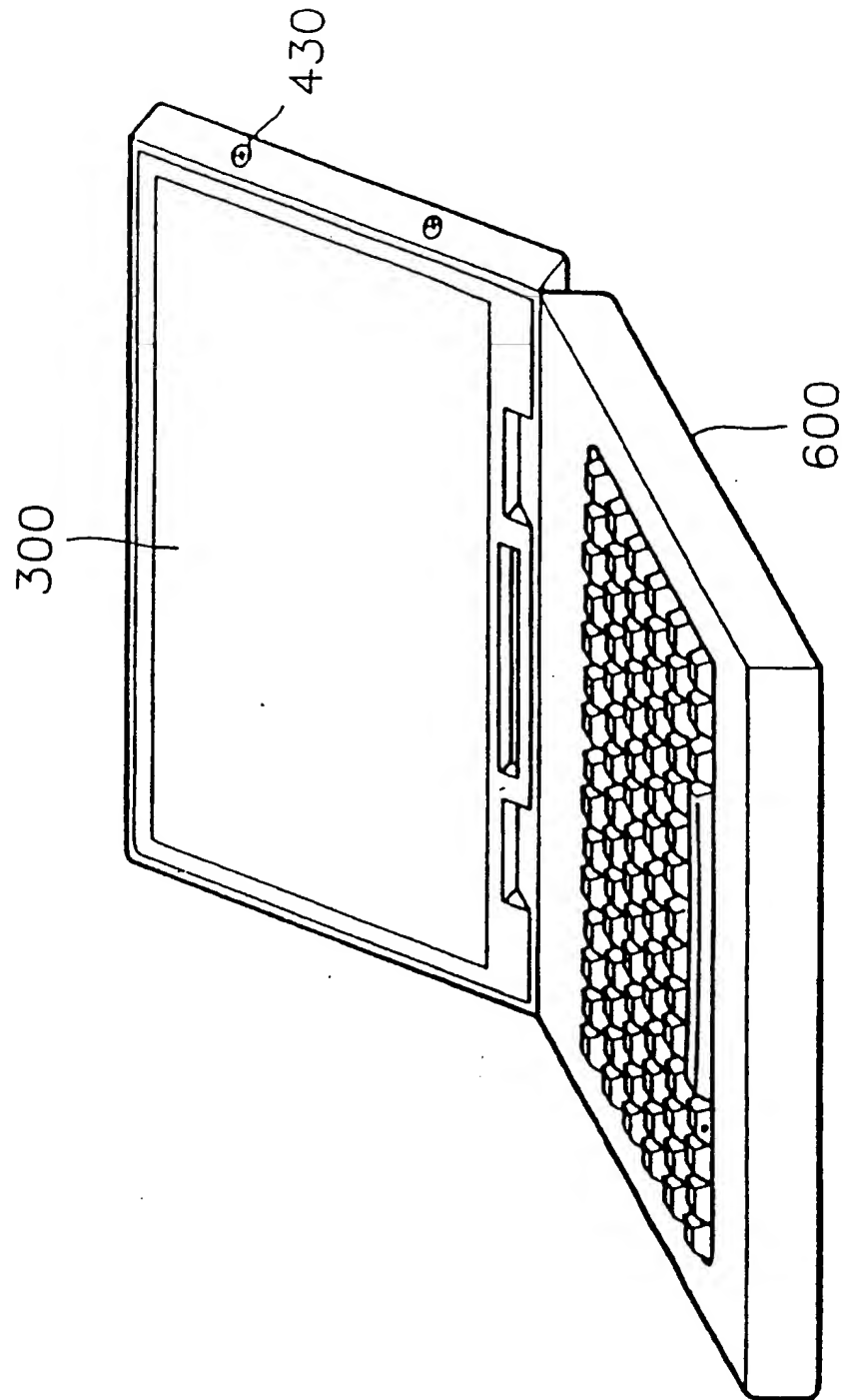


FIG. 9



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COMPUTER HAVING LIQUID CRYSTAL DISPLAY BETWEEN FRAMES ATTACHED AT THE EDGES

This application claims the benefit of Korean Application No. 12899/1997 filed on Apr. 8, 1997, and Korean Application No. 14278/1997 filed on Apr. 17, 1997, which are hereby incorporated by reference.

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

1. Field of the Invention

The present invention relates to a computer, and more particularly, to a liquid crystal display unit of a portable computer.

2. Discussion of the Related Art

In general, a liquid crystal display(LCD) device used for a computer such as a portable computer or for a portable display is shown in FIG. 1. Referring to FIG. 1, the LCD device includes a liquid crystal panel 20, a back light unit 22, and a driving circuit board 23. The back light unit 22 is comprised of a luminescent lamp 11, a lamp housing 12 having a U-shape cross section and surrounding the lamp 11, a light guide 13, a reflector 14 reflecting the incident light from the horizontal direction to the vertical direction, a protection sheet 15 contacting the light guide 13, a first prism sheet 16 and a second prism sheet 17 set on the protecting sheet diffuser 15 and directing the incident light from the light guide 13 to specific direction, a diffuser 18 diffusing the light from the first and second prisms 16 and 17 to a viewing area 21 of the liquid crystal panel 20 with a certain viewing angle, and a first support frame 19 supporting these elements of the LCD device.

FIG. 2 shows a cross-sectional view of the light-guiding plate 13 showing a gradual decrease in thickness as the light guiding plate 13 extends away from the light source 11. A fluorescent lamp 11 as the light source is fixed at the thicker end of the light-guiding plate 13. When the fluorescent lamp 11 is turned on, the light 23 from the source 11 is reflected by the lamp housing 12 surrounding the fluorescent lamp 11. The reflected light transmits through the light guiding plate 13 towards the other side (thinner end) of the light-guiding plate 13 as indicated by the arrows. Then, the light spreads all over the surface of the light-guiding plate 13 and reaches the display area 21 (FIG. 1) through the diffusion plate 18. At the same time, a thin film transistor formed on the liquid crystal panel controls a corresponding pixel according to the signals from the driving circuit 23 (FIG. 1) to selectively transmit the light in that pixel. The same process in each pixel collecting produce the display of images on the display area 21.

The liquid crystal display is usually combined with, for example, a notebook computer for use as an output screen. The following method is used to attach the liquid crystal display to a device such as a notebook computer.

Referring to FIGS. 3a and 3b, in a conventional liquid crystal display, a ground supporting plate 30 is disposed on the first fastening frame 19. A mounting hole 33 is formed through the ground supporting plate 30 and the first fastening frame 19, as shown in FIG. 3b. Then, the ground supporting plate 30 and the first fastening frame 19 are fixed by a screw 31 as shown in FIG. 3a. In other words, a liquid crystal display is attached to a device such as a notebook computer in a manner so as to fasten the first fastening frame 19 and the ground supporting plate 30 by a fastening element such as a screw.

However, the liquid crystal display is necessarily made thicker due to the length of the screw according to the method as shown in FIGS. 3a and 3b. Moreover, since the mounting hole 33 for the screw is formed on the front

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surface of the liquid crystal display, the display area of the liquid crystal display must necessarily be narrowed to permit sufficient space at the margin of the front surface to accommodate mounting hole 33 and screw 31.

According to the structure described above, the LCD device operates as follows. The light from the luminescent lamp 11 is incident on the rear surface of the liquid crystal panel 20 through the back light unit 22. A control circuit placed on the driving circuit board 23 controls the incident light on the viewing area 21 of the liquid crystal panel 20 to display images and characters.

FIG. 4 is a drawing showing a plan view of the final assembly structure of the conventional liquid crystal display device. FIG. 4 also shows the assembled result of a second support frame 40, liquid crystal panel 20 and back light unit having an assembly structure for mounting to a portable computer. The second support frame 40 is made of metal or plastic, and holds the liquid crystal panel 20 and the back light unit. Here, the driving circuit board 23 is located behind the rear part of the back light unit connected to the liquid crystal panel 20 with a flexible film (not shown).

FIG. 5 shows the assembly structure of the liquid crystal panel 20 and body 60 of the portable computer in the conventional method. The second support frame 40 is mounted to a rear case 50 of the portable computer using screws 43 through screw holes 41. A front case(not shown) having a blank area adjusted to the viewing area is joined at the rear case 50. That is, the liquid crystal panel 20 is attached to the rear case 50 by the screws 43 through the screw holes the display surface in the normal direction of the surface 41 formed on. Although not shown in the drawings, the front case is mounted on the LCD device, opening the viewing area 21 and covering the other parts.

In general, as the size of the portable computer is designed for easy movement, the ratio of the viewing area to the whole surface area of the display and the thickness of the display device affects the quality of the portable computer. However, in a conventional portable computer, screw holes 41 are located on edge portions of the display surface in order to join the second support frame 40 to the rear case 50. As the display area has a screw frame area 42 (FIG. 4) for forming the holes 41, the ratio of the area of the LCD panel to the viewing area 21 is reduced.

Furthermore, in the conventional portable computer, as the screws 43 are mounted in the liquid crystal display device and the rear case 50 in the normal direction of the display surface, the display part is necessarily thick enough to form an assembly device 51 for the screws 43, such as screw holes 41. The second support frame 40 is also necessarily large enough to have a space for supporting the screw holes 41. Thus, it is difficult to reduce the weight of the portable computer.

Accordingly, a liquid crystal device is needed having a high viewing ratio of the display, low weight, and reduced thickness for a computer, such as a portable computer.

SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

Accordingly, the present invention is directed to a computer that substantially obviates one or more of the problems due to limitations and disadvantages of the related art while retaining the advantages.

An object of the present invention is to increase the ratio of the viewing area to the whole area of a computer display.

Another object of the present invention is to provide a thin, lightweight display unit.

Additional features and advantages of the invention will be set forth in the description which follows, and in part will be apparent from the description, or may be learned by

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practice of the invention. The objectives and other advantages of the invention will be realized and attained by the structure particularly pointed out in the written description and claims hereof as well as the appended drawings.

To achieve these and other advantages and in accordance with the purpose of the present invention, as embodied and broadly described, a liquid crystal display device comprises a liquid crystal panel including a back light unit including a light source joined with the liquid crystal panel; a first frame coupled to a surface of the backlight unit and to the sides of the liquid crystal panel; a second frame coupled to the edges of the liquid crystal panel and to the sides of the first support frame; an outer casing; and a fastening part joining together the first support frame, the second support frame, and the outer casing through the sides of the first support frame, the second support frame, and the outer casing.

In another aspect of the present invention, a portable computer comprises a liquid crystal display device having a display surface and a first plurality of side surfaces; a body having an input device; a cover, coupled to an edge of the body, having a second plurality of side surfaces; and a fastening unit attaching the first plurality of side surfaces of the liquid crystal display device to the second plurality of side surfaces of the cover, the liquid crystal display device being mounted to the cover.

In another aspect of the present invention, a portable computer comprises a liquid crystal display device having a first side surface; a body having an input device; a cover joined with the body and having a second side surface; and a fastening unit joining together the liquid crystal display device and the cover through the first and second side surfaces of the liquid crystal display device and the cover, respectively.

In a further aspect of the present invention a liquid crystal display device comprises a first support frame having a first fastening member at a side surface of the first support frame; a reflector unit adjacent the first support frame; a light source adjacent to the reflector unit; a light guide unit adjacent the reflector unit; a protection unit adjacent the light guide unit; a prism unit adjacent the protection unit; a diffuser unit adjacent the prism unit; a liquid crystal panel adjacent the diffuser unit; and a second support frame having a second fastening member at a side surface of the second support frame, wherein the reflector unit, the protection unit, the prism unit, and the diffuser unit, the liquid crystal panel are between the first and second support frame, and the first and second support frame are attached to each other through the first and second fastening members through the side surfaces of the first and second support frames.

It is to be understood that both the foregoing general description and the following detailed description are exemplary and explanatory and are intended to provide further explanation of the invention as claimed.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

The accompanying drawings, which are included to provide a further understanding of the invention and are incorporated in and constitute a part of this specification, illustrate embodiments of the invention and together with the description serve to explain the principles of the invention.

In the drawings:

FIG. 1 is a perspective drawing showing the structure of the conventional liquid crystal display device;

FIG. 2 is a cross-sectional view of a light-guiding plate and a fluorescent lamp;

FIG. 3a is a plan view of a liquid crystal display showing a screw frame of a first fastening frame;

FIG. 3b is a cross-sectional view of a liquid crystal display illustrating a first fastening frame, a lamp housing, and ground support plates fixed together by a screw;

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FIG. 4 shows a plan view of the final assembly structure of the liquid crystal panel, support frame, and back light unit in the conventional liquid crystal display device;

FIG. 5 shows an assembly structure of the liquid crystal display device in the conventional portable computer;

FIG. 6 is a perspective view showing the assembly structure of the parts of the back light unit in accordance with the present invention;

FIG. 7 is a perspective view the assembly structure of the liquid crystal display device, the rear cover, and the front cover in accordance with the present invention;

FIG. 8 is a cross-sectional view of a liquid crystal display according to the present invention illustrating mounting holes at a side of the first fastening frame; and

FIG. 9 shows an assembly structure of the liquid crystal display device and portable computer in accordance with the present invention.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE PREFERRED EMBODIMENTS

Reference will now be made in detail to the preferred embodiments of the present invention, examples of which are illustrated in the accompanying drawings.

The present invention provides a mounting hole for a fastening element on a side of a liquid crystal display instead of on a front surface of a liquid crystal display. For example, FIG. 8 shows a first mounting hole 410a formed on a first fastening frame 190. With reference to FIG. 6, the structure of a liquid crystal display according to the present invention will be described in detail.

Referring to FIG. 6, on a first support frame 190 made of plastic, for example, a reflector 140, a light guide 130, a protection sheet 150, a first prism sheet 160, a second prism sheet 170, a diffuser 180, and a liquid crystal panel 300 are stacked sequentially. On the side surface of the first support frame 190, a plurality of first screw holes 410a are formed.

At the edge of the light guide 130, a luminescent lamp 110 and a lamp housing 120 are mounted. The lamp housing 120 has a U-shape cross-section and surrounds the luminescent lamp 110.

In order to join the first support frame 190, the liquid crystal panel 300, and the lamp housing 120, a second support frame 400 preferably made of metal is mounted at the side surface of the first support frame 190. At the side surface of the second support frame 400, a plurality of second screw holes 410b are formed aligned with the first screw holes 410a.

Referring to FIG. 7, a liquid crystal display device 700 comprising the first support frame 190, the second support frame 400, and the liquid crystal panel 300 is joined with a rear case 500 and a front case 520. At the side surface of the rear case 500, third screw holes 410c are formed aligned with second screw holes 410b. The rear case 500 and the liquid crystal display device 700 are joined to each other by fastening devices such as screws 430, which are affixed to the second and third screw holes 410b and 410c. Although not shown in the drawings, the screws 430 are also affixed to the first screw holes 410a.

In another embodiment, in order to join the second support frame 400 and the rear case 500, an adhesive device such as double-sided adhesive tape can be used instead of the second and the third screw holes 410b and 410c. This example has an added advantage in that no screws are needed which simplifies the manufacturing process.

In a further embodiment, the rear case 500 and the second support frame 400 are joined to each other using hooks and/or other suitable fastening devices including adhesives formed at inner sides of the rear case 500. This embodiment also does not need fastening devices such as screws 430.

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Accordingly, in the present invention, the assembling or fastening devices are located at the side surface of the display and not at the front or back side. The assembling devices are preferably screws, hooks or, adhesive materials, for example. The direction of the assembling devices is normal to the side surface of the display, that is, parallel direction with the front (viewing) surface of the display. Moreover, the assembling devices may be formed on the upper and lower sides of the display.

Referring to FIG. 9, the liquid crystal display is mounted to the portable computer. One of the advantages of the portable computer according to the present invention over the conventional portable computer is the higher ratio of the viewing area to the area of the display case. Because there are no fastening elements on the display surface, the outer frame of the display area of the present invention is narrower than that of conventional ones. Thus, the ratio of the viewing area to the area of the display case can be maximized and the thickness of the display part is made thinner than that of conventional ones.

Furthermore, as the volume of the frames of the present invention is smaller than that of conventional ones, the portable computer of the present invention is lighter. Additionally, as it is not necessary to have screws, the cost for manufacturing can be reduced.

It will be apparent to those skilled in the art that various modifications and variations can be made in the computer having liquid crystal display of the present invention without departing from the spirit or scope of the invention. Thus, it is intended that the present invention cover the modifications and variations of this invention provided they come within the scope of the appended claims and their equivalents.

What is claimed is:

1. A liquid crystal display device comprising:
 - a liquid crystal panel including a display area;
 - a light unit including a light source, joined with the liquid crystal panel;
 - a first frame coupled to a surface of the light unit and sides of the liquid crystal panel;
 - a second frame coupled to edges of the liquid crystal panel and sides of the first frame;
 - an outer casing; and
 - a fastening part joining together the first frame, the second frame, and the outer casing through the sides of the first frame, the second frame, and the outer casing.
2. A liquid crystal display device mountable to a housing comprising:
 - a liquid crystal panel with a display area and a first plurality of side edges;
 - a support frame having a second plurality of side edges and supporting the liquid crystal panel, at least one side edge of the second plurality of side edges including first and second mounting holes, the first mounting hole being located at a top half of the side edge of the support frame and the second mounting hole being located at a bottom half of the side edge of the support frame;

wherein the support frame is immovably mounted to the housing using the first and second mounting holes.
3. The liquid crystal display device according to claim 2, wherein at least one of the first and second mounting holes has a threaded inner surface for receiving a screw.
4. The liquid crystal display device according to claim 2, wherein at least one of the first and second mounting holes receives an unthreaded fastener.
5. The liquid crystal display device according to claim 2, wherein the housing includes first and second receiving holes respectively aligned with the first and second mounting holes.

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6. The liquid crystal display device according to claim 5, wherein at least one of the first and second receiving holes has a threaded inner surface for receiving a screw.

7. A portable computer comprising:

- a liquid crystal display model having a display surface, a back surface and a plurality of side edges;
- an upper casing substantially covering the back surface of the liquid crystal display module;

- a lower casing coupled to the upper casing and having an input device;

wherein at least one of the plurality of side edges includes first and second mounting holes, the first mounting hole being located at a top half of the side edge of the liquid crystal display module and the second mounting hole being located at a bottom half of the side edge of the liquid crystal display module; and

wherein the liquid crystal display module is immovably mounted to the upper casing using the first and second mounting holes.

8. The portable computer according to claim 7, wherein at least one of the first and second mounting holes has a threaded inner surface for receiving a screw.

9. The liquid crystal display device according to claim 7, wherein at least one of the first and second mounting holes receives an unthreaded fastener.

10. The liquid crystal display device according to claim 7, wherein the upper casing includes first and second receiving holes respectively aligned with the first and second mounting holes.

11. The liquid crystal display device according to claim 10, wherein at least one of the first and second receiving holes has a threaded inner surface for receiving a screw.

12. A portable computer comprising:

- a liquid crystal display module having a display surface, a back surface and a plurality of side edges;
- an upper casing substantially covering the back surface of the liquid crystal display module;

- a lower casing coupled to the upper casing and having an input device;

wherein at least one of the plurality of side edges includes first and second mounting holes, the first mounting hole being located at a top half of the side edge of the liquid crystal display module and the second mounting hole being located at a bottom half of the side edge of the liquid crystal display module; and

wherein the first and second mounting holes at the side edge of the liquid crystal display module are engaged to immovably couple the liquid crystal display module to the upper casing.

13. The portable computer according to claim 12, wherein at least one of the first and second mounting holes has a threaded inner surface for receiving a screw.

14. The liquid crystal display device according to claim 12, wherein at least one of the first and second mounting holes receives an unthreaded fastener.

15. The liquid crystal display device according to claim 12, wherein the upper casing includes first and second receiving holes aligned with the first and second mounting holes.

16. The liquid crystal display device according to claim 15, wherein at least one of the first and second receiving holes has a threaded inner surface for receiving a screw.